# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 6 March 2008

Current Nationwide

ELEVATED
Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For info click here

- According to NBC News, in a bulletin released Friday to U.S. law enforcement officials, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is warning of "continued strong terrorist interest" in targeting mass transit systems in the U.S. The 10-page threat assessment, titled the "Mass Transit System Threat Assessment," cautions that the "U.S. mass transit and passenger rail systems are vulnerable to terrorist attacks because they are accessible to large numbers of the public and are notoriously difficult to secure." (See item **12**)
- ABC News reports that the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI issued an assessment, called "Potential Threats to Popular Sports and Entertainment Venues," that said arenas and stadiums are attractive "potential targets during events." The assessment repeatedly noted that the FBI and DHS have no "information on any credible or specific current terrorism plots to attack stadiums or arenas in the United States." (See item **31**)



## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) − [http://www.esisac.com]

1. *March 5, Reuters* – (International) **OPEC keeps output steady in face of $100 oil.** On Wednesday, ministers of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to keep oil output steady and said record high prices had been driven by factors that were beyond their control. U.S. crude hit a record of $103.95 a barrel on

Monday and was trading above $100 on Wednesday. Wednesday's no-change decision could still allow for quiet shifts in OPEC production. Top exporter Saudi Arabia has consistently pledged to keep the market well-supplied with oil. Saudi Arabia's oil minister said the kingdom had been pumping 9.2 million barrels per day (bpd) "day in, day out," which is roughly 300,000 bpd above its formal OPEC output target. OPEC could have an opportunity to reassess the market at producer-consumer talks in Rome on April 20-22.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080305/bs_nm/opec_dc;_ylt=AurxNR1mbALsehJT4qDoKSqs0NUE

2. *March 4, Agence France-Presse* – (National) **U.S. voices support for renewable energy.** A U.S. deputy State secretary said Tuesday at the opening of the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference that it is "imperative" to expand the use of renewable energy such as wind power and biofuels to reduce its dependence on foreign oil and slow global warming. The three-day conference gathers representatives from more than ten governments, corporations, and non-governmental organizations. "Renewable energies will alleviate some of the most pressing energy security dilemmas faced by many nations," he said. Even as the Bush administration signaled support for expanded renewable energy use and production, it remains adamantly opposed to any forced reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for fear of crippling effects on the U.S. economy. The deputy State secretary said Washington was urging governments and business leaders to make a "voluntary pledge" to boost the share of renewable energies in the world.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080305/pl_afp/usenergyclimatewarming_080305002944;_ylt=Ashz5efUz50ls.pfLGxt43HYa7gF

[Return to top]

## Chemical Industry Sector

3. *March 4, Marin Independent Journal* – (California) **Barrel full of toxic chemicals found in Novato.** A 55-gallon drum of toxic chemicals was found abandoned near a Novato, California interchange Tuesday, prompting a three-hour operation to identify and remove the substance, a fire official said. A fish-and-game officer found the barrel around noon alongside Hanna Ranch Road, at the junction of highways 101 and 37, said a Novato fire Battalion Chief. Authorities closed the road and summoned a hazardous-materials crew. Tests showed "highly toxic" chemicals in the drum, he said, but he did not know the exact makeup. No leakage was reported. The drum was resealed, placed inside another container and hauled off. Police were investigating how the drum got there.
Source: http://www.marinij.com/ci_8456539?source=rss

[Return to top]

## Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *March 4, Times Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **PPL shuts down reactor for refueling at Susquehanna nuclear plant.** The Unit 1 reactor at PPL Corp.'s Susquehanna nuclear plant in Pennsylvania was shut down early on Tuesday for scheduled maintenance and upgrades to increase output, PPL announced. The company expected the reactor to go back online in mid-April to meet the annual summer increase in energy demand. Unit 2 remains at full power. Along with replacing 40 percent of the reactor's uranium fuel, upgrades are scheduled to increase the unit's output by seven percent.
Source:
http://www.timesleader.com/news/latest/PPL_shuts_down_reactor_for_refueling_at_Susquehanna_nuclear_plant.html

5. *March 4, KIDK 3 Idaho Falls* – (Idaho) **New developments in radiation leak.** A source involved in the investigation on the radiation leak at the Sabia Inc. building in Idaho Falls said Sabia is actually not licensed to have strontium-90 in the building. They are licensed to have other radioactive sources, but not this particular isotope. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) says they have had some regulation problems with Sabia. In 2005, the NRC recommended the company make some changes, one of which included additional training for workers. The NRC will now take over and determine what to do with this latest information.
Source: http://www.kidk.com/news/16237662.html

[Return to top]

## Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *March 4, Aviation Week* – (International) **Military fleet to drop in next decade.** The worldwide fleet of Western military aircraft will steadily decline over the next decade, going from 39,113 aircraft today to 37,950 by 2018, according to a principal at consulting firm AeroStrategy. The declining fleet stems from older aircraft being retired over the next decade and fewer, but more capable aircraft replacing them.
Source:
http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/FLEET030408.xml&headline=Military%20Fleet%20To%20Drop%20In%20Next%20Decade

7. *March 4, Aviation Week* – (National) **Fourth satellite busts budget.** The Air Force secretary formally notified Congress that cost overruns on the Lockheed Martin/Northrop Grumman Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellite program have topped 15 percent of the program's baseline, largely due to a Pentagon decision to restart the production line and add a fourth spacecraft (SV-4) to the planned total buy. "This procurement and its associated costs, after a production break of four years since [the] AEHF-3 contract award, [have] forced the program over the significant threshold," he wrote to lawmakers in a February 28 letter. The Pentagon stopped the buy at three satellites after deciding to proceed with the Transformational Satellite (TSAT)

program, which is designed to field spacecraft capable of providing high-bandwidth, secure communications to military and government users around the globe. However, the Pentagon has cut back on its transformation agenda, delaying the fielding of the system until around 2018. Another AEHF is needed to ensure continuity of service to commanders around the globe until TSAT becomes operational.
Source:
http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/AEHF03048.xml&headline=Fourth%20Satellite%20Busts%20Budget&channel=space

[Return to top]

## Banking and Finance Sector

8. *March 5, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **SEC proposes teeth for short-selling rules.** Securities regulators voted 3-0 to propose a rule intended to crack down on lingering abuses involving so-called naked short sales and failures to deliver shares that have been used in such sales. The proposal is part of a continuing attack by the Securities and Exchange Commission on short-sales abuses, an effort begun four years ago with the adoption of rules known as Regulation SHO. Separately, the SEC voted to propose changes that could speed the introduction of exchange-traded funds, without review by federal regulators. Short selling involves sales of borrowed shares, producing profits when prices decline, allowing the short seller to replace borrowed shares at a lower price. In contrast, "naked" short sellers do not borrow shares before engaging in short selling, and they may have no intention of borrowing them. Under the proposal, the SEC would create an antifraud rule targeting those who knowingly deceive brokers about having located securities before engaging in short sales, and who fail to deliver the securities by the delivery date. Even with the regulation in place, the SEC received hundreds of complaints last year about alleged abuses involving short sales. While most trades settle within three days, as required, the SEC estimates about 1 percent of shares that change hands daily, or about $1 billion, are subject to delivery failures. Brokers who engage in short selling for customers would not face any new obligations under the proposed antifraud rule, and the SEC said it would not apply to market makers engaging in market-making activities.
Source:
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120468499197912561.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

9. *March 5, Reuters* – (National) **Fraud compounds woes of housing crisis.** As the U.S. housing meltdown forces hundreds of thousands of Americans from their homes, the extent to which fraud was a factor in the crisis is just coming to light. Products such as stated-income loans -- known as "liar loans" because no proof of income was needed -- led to widespread misrepresentation by borrowers about their earnings. But far more sinister forms of fraud, including identity theft and "straw buyers" -- those created using fake documents -- are also coming into the open. The chairman of the Prieston Group, which provides mortgage-fraud insurance and training to lenders, said that "at least 30 percent of the loans out there contain some form of misrepresentation." "But because lenders often have to sell off properties quickly to cut their losses, we will never know exactly how much mortgage fraud has been committed," he added. He estimates that

mortgage-fraud losses were around $4.2 billion for 2006, adding that figures for 2007 "will be much higher." The mortgage scam known as identity theft is relatively simple -- the perpetrator uses a stolen identity to buy property with no money down, then rents it to tenants until it goes into foreclosure, collecting rent but never making a mortgage payment. A far more lucrative scam, using what are known as straw buyers, was much more common, according to a Boston-based real estate analyst. All people needed was to buy a foreclosed property at a bargain price, have it falsely appraised with a grossly inflated value, then sell it to a straw buyer at a big profit. The straw buyer never makes a payment and the home goes into foreclosure. The process was often repeated over and over again. "The real victims are the genuine borrowers who bought here at inflated prices and are stuck now with mortgages worth more than their homes," he added. Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2037615020080305

10. *March 4, IDG News Service* – (National) **FTC settles breach complaint with student lender.** The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has settled a complaint against student lender Goal Financial after allegations that the company failed to safeguard personal data. Goal Financial allowed two employees to access the personal information of about 7,000 customers and take the information to a competing firm between 2005 and 2006, and the company allowed an employee to sell a hard drive containing the unencrypted personal information of 34,000 customers sometime in 2006, the FTC said. The company failed to protect personal information such as birth dates, Social Security numbers, and income and employment information, the FTC said in its complaint against Goal Financial. In a letter that Goal Financial sent to affected customers in early 2007, the company said it was taking steps to "prevent future employee theft." It pointed customers to places where they could ask for free credit reports. Goal Financial, based in San Diego, gave customers a privacy policy that said, in part: "Access to nonpublic personal information about you is limited to those employees who need to know such information to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard your nonpublic personal information." Goal Financial also violated the FTC's Privacy Rule by providing customers with a privacy policy that contained false or misleading statements and violated the FTC Act by falsely representing to consumers that it implemented reasonable and appropriate measures to protect personal information, the FTC said. Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/03/04/FTC-settles-breach-complaint-with-student-lender_1.html

[Return to top]

## Transportation Sector

11. *March 5, NY Daily News* – (New York) **Building collapse in East Harlem stirs havoc on Metro-North.** In New York, Metro-North riders had a miserable commute home yesterday after a vacant building owned by the publisher of the New York Observer collapsed near the rail line's elevated East Harlem tracks, authorities said. Service to and from Grand Central was shut down for more than two hours. A Metro-North spokeswoman described rush hour as "chaotic." The tracks were closed at about 3:15 p.m. because firefighters feared train vibrations could cause further collapse. They were

reopened shortly before 5:30 p.m., but most of Metro-North's 80,000 daily evening riders were socked with delays. A buildings commissioner said engineers are investigating the collapse.
Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2008/03/05/2008-03-05_building_collapse_in_east_harlem_stirs_h.html

12. *March 4, NBC News* – (National) **Government warns of terror threat to trains.** In a bulletin released Friday to U.S. law enforcement officials, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is warning of "continued strong terrorist interest" in targeting mass transit systems in the U.S. The 10-page threat assessment, titled the "Mass Transit System Threat Assessment." cautions that the "U.S. mass transit and passenger rail systems are vulnerable to terrorist attacks because they are accessible to large numbers of the public and are notoriously difficult to secure." Previous rail attacks in Madrid, London and Mumbai "could inspire terrorists to conduct similar attacks in the United States," the report adds. However, the authors of the intelligence analysis make clear that there are no known, immediate dangers. The report comes just weeks after Amtrak announced a series of new security measures Amtrak does not routinely screen passengers or their baggage with metal detectors or other devices, as all U.S. airlines do. The report identifies Al-Qaida as one of the "most likely actors" in potential attacks. Other terror groups are a threat, too. "Lebanese Hizballah, which has supporters inside the United States, is less likely to attack U.S. domestic interests unless it perceives the United States has become a direct threat to its leadership, its armed capabilities, or to Iran," the TSA authors write. TSA worries that rail-industry insiders might become terrorist accomplices and cites two examples: a security guard at Heathrow International Airport (LHR), who was one of 24 people arrested in connection with the plan to blow up aircraft in the 2006 UK-U.S. transatlantic plot and a Turkish citizen, reportedly a member of the Islamic Jihad Union cell targeting Germany, was arrested in September 2007. Yilmaz was employed in the security division of rail operator Deutsche Bahn from 1997 until 2002. During that time he worked in the railway station of Frankfurt airport.
Source: http://deepbackground.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/03/04/729103.aspx

13. *March 4, BBC News* – (National) **Man held over 'bin Laden links'.** A man from Portadown in Northern Ireland is in custody in the US after he allegedly told a flight attendant he had links with Osama bin Laden. The 44-year-old appeared in court on Monday charged with assault and interfering with flight crew. It is alleged he had been drinking on the flight from Atlanta to Dublin. An FBI affidavit alleged that he was smoking in the airplane's toilets. It also stated that when challenged, the man became verbally abusive to a flight attendant, telling her he was associated with Osama bin Laden and was going to hijack the plane. According to the affidavit, he later told an off-duty pilot he was a terrorist. It also alleged he then punched an off-duty flight attendant who warned him he might have to be restrained. The airplane landed at the nearest airport.
Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/7277674.stm

14. *March 4, CNN* – (National) **DHS secretary seeks to improve airport screening.** The

Secretary of Homeland Security told a Senate panel Tuesday that the government needs to look for new ways to improve airport screening and that he has instructed the head of the Transportation Security Administration to come up with ways to "re-engineer the process" in the next 30 to 45 days. The official said his department is already testing technologies that "will be better and more efficient" than equipment currently deployed at airports. He specifically mentioned millimeter wave technology, which scans a person's body to detect contraband. It is undergoing trial testing at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The administration is proposing to Congress that new equipment be purchased with revenue from a user fee.
Source: http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/03/04/airport.screening/index.html

[Return to top]

## Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *March 4, KTIV 4 Sioux City* – (Iowa) **Drill determines whether plant could handle anthrax attack.** In Iowa, about 150 local law enforcement officials, fire fighters, hazmat team members, and officials with Siouxland District health spent the morning of March 4 responding to a fictitious anthrax discovery at the mail processing center. In the drill, workers at the mail processing center were locked inside and given a device to communicate with the outside. The assistant fire chief of the Sioux City Fire Department said, "Whatever is in the building we want to keep in the building, make sure that the people are safe. Bring them out, make sure there's no contamination on them and then move them to another safe location." According to federal guidelines, the U.S. Postal Service must take part in a number of drills across the country, but officials say there is no imminent threat.
Source: http://www.ktiv.com/News/index.php?ID=23090

[Return to top]

## Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *March 5, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Tracing beef supply is hurdle for U.S.** The U.S. Agriculture Department is not sure how many schools have been affected by the largest meat recall in the nation, and about ten percent of the recalled beef still has not been tracked down, an official told the House Education Committee. While the department has worked with other agencies and groups on the recall, it has faced several challenges in tracking down the more than 50 million pounds of beef supplied to the National School Lunch Program from Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co. in Chino, California, said the deputy undersecretary at USDA's Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. More schools may have bought beef from Hallmark/Westland commercially. The USDA relies on states to tell it where the meat went after they got the meat from the USDA, and states in turn are relying on schools to give them that information, but schools have not finalized reports on the recall. In addition, the distribution system for the school lunch program makes it hard to trace products. About 60 percent of the meat was processed to make meat balls, hamburger patties, and other value-added products, and that meat was often mixed with other products. Distributors and state warehouses

classified meat by product type, such as beef taco meat, not by manufacturer.
Source:
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120469258348613067.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

17. *March 4, New Mexico Business Weekly* – (National) **Heinz recalls Boston Market lasagna with questionable beef.** H.J. Heinz Co. is recalling approximately 40,000 cases of Boston Market brand lasagna with meat sauce after discovering that it contained beef that was among the 143 million pounds recalled nationally last month by the Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. Heinz said in a prepared statement that a vendor used "a small portion of ground beef from Westland/Hallmark" and that it is working closely with its customers to ensure that the recalled lasagna is removed from store shelves and that no other Heinz or Boston Market products are affected.
Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/stories/2008/03/03/daily13.html

18. *March 3, Capital Press* – (California) **Light brown apple moth found in Sonoma County, Calif.** The light brown apple moth has made its way to a new Northern California county. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) reported Friday that a single male moth was found in a trap, one of 613 that have been deployed in Sonoma as part of the state's light brown apple moth detection program. CDFA said the discovery trigged more trapping in the immediate area to determine if additional moths are present. More finds could, in turn, lead officials to implement eradication efforts, as well as quarantines to limit movement of plants, produce and yard waste. The tiny native Australian moth is categorized as a "Class A" pest, CDFA's most serious rating, because of the risks it poses to the state's multibillion-dollar agriculture industry.
Source:
http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=94&SubSectionID=801&ArticleID=39760&TM=12443.81

[Return to top]

## Water Sector

19. *March 4, Associated Press* – (California) **Greka crude spills into Santa Maria area stream.** Up to 168 gallons of crude oil spilled from a Greka Oil and Gas facility into a seasonal stream east of Santa Maria, California. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department captain says firefighters responded to the spill Monday morning after getting a call from a Greka employee. A Greka spokesman says the oil leaked from a four-inch pipe left over from a well shut down in 2005. The crude flowed about 300 yards down the creek, which has a small stream of water. Greka has been plagued by a string of spills and, in recent months, the county has issued stop-work orders at some of the firm's facilities.
Source: http://www.sacbee.com/114/story/758543.html

[Return to top]

## Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *March 5, Reuters* – (International) **Indonesia says H5N1 samples show no signs of mutation.** Bird flu virus samples that Indonesia sent to a World Health Organization laboratory last month have not shown signs of any mutation, a health ministry spokeswoman said on Wednesday. Scientists need to share and analyze H5N1 virus samples to see if they have mutated to become more easily passed between people as that could mean the start of a pandemic. Such analyses are also needed in the making of vaccines, a chief weapon in the fight against a pandemic. The lack of mutation means the virus remains hard for humans to catch. Worldwide, the virus has infected 368 people in 14 countries since 2003, killing 234, or 64 percent, of them.
Source:
http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSJAK15052820080305?sp=true

21. *March 4, KVVU 5 Las Vegas* – (Nevada) **5th center closes over hepatitis.** The Gastroenterology Center of Nevada was told by Henderson officials to close its doors effective Tuesday. This center is being investigated in connection with Endoscopy Center and its exposure of 40,000 patients to hepatitis C. "Because this business is owned and operated by the same people who own facilities throughout Clark County that are currently closed and under investigation, we will be interested in not only our location but the business practices and suitability of all establishments owned by this group before we allow them to operate in Henderson," the mayor said. An apparent failure of the center's management to cooperate with the business licensing office and help with the investigation is what caused its license to be suspended, city officials said. Health district officials are recommending that anyone who received anesthesia at the Endoscopy Center of Nevada be tested for hepatitis B and C, as well as HIV.
Source: http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/15489537/detail.html

## Government Facilities Sector

22. *March 4, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Student arrested after bathroom bomb threat found at North Andover High School.** A 16-year-old student at North Andover High School is facing criminal charges after a bomb threat was found scrawled on a stall in the girls' bathroom. Police sent several officers to the school and searched the building with a dog trained by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, said a lieutenant from the North Andover Police Department. The principal sent out a voicemail alert to parents to warn them about the threat. The student was arrested Monday and charged with threatening to commit a crime and disruption of an academic setting.
Source:
http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2008/03/student_arreste_1.html

23. *March 4, Connecticut Post* – (Connecticut) **White powder closes courthouse.** Employees of Milford Superior Court were stuck in the courthouse Tuesday afternoon as an investigation was launched into the discovery of a suspicious substance found in a bathroom. "A white powdery substance was found in the upstairs women's restroom and they didn't know what it was, so they called 911," said the director of external affairs for

the state Judicial Branch. Workers in the criminal clerk's office at the courthouse said a lockdown was imposed and they were not allowed to leave. Judicial marshals also locked the courthouse door to keep out visitors. Fire Department personnel were dispatched to the call about 4:30 p.m., as well as the state Department of Environmental Protection. As of 6:30 p.m., investigators were still on the scene, and it was not clear if employees had been permitted to leave. The powder was tested at the scene and a sample sent to the state Health Lab in Hartford, a state police spokesman said Tuesday night.
Source: http://www.connpost.com/localnews/ci_8455052

[Return to top]

## Emergency Services Sector

24. *March 5, Firefightingnews.com* – (California) **False fire alarms waste about $9 million a year in firefighters' time.** Aiming to recoup an estimated $9 million a year spent sending firefighters to false alarms, one Los Angeles city leader and the city firefighters union are proposing fines for unneeded calls. The Los Angeles Police Department already charges property owners $115 or more for responding to a false burglary alarm. But one councilwoman said she wants similar penalties implemented to deal with the roughly 30,000 false alarms the Los Angeles Fire Department responds to each year. "Closing this loophole will allow us to save money while serving as a deterrent to these amateur pranks," she said. The LAFD gets about 82 false-alarm calls each day. Roughly 80 percent of those are triggered by automatic alarms. About 12 percent are initiated by smoke detectors and water alarms. The fire-alarm fee was proposed by United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, whose members suspect that security companies are simply calling the LAFD instead of the LAPD to avoid false-alarm fines. "The alarm companies are starting to call the Fire Department when these alarms go off – whether they be fire or burglar alarms – because they know we'll respond," said the vice president of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City. California Alarm Association officials said that is unlikely. They said calling for a fire response to a burglar alarm would be illegal under city law and, potentially, a criminal violation. The Alarm Association's executive director said there have been proposals over the years to fine or limit response to repeat false-alarm offenders, but fire officials are usually reluctant to deter fire-alarm use. LAFD officials said the department supports the councilwoman's proposal, with the hope that it will cut down on false alarms and allow better use of firefighters' time. "What we don't want to do is have a response to something that's not real versus one that is a real emergency," said an LAFD spokesman.
Source: http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-US.cfm?articleID=46190

25. *March 5, Gadsden Times* – (Alabama) **Chemical exercise set for today.** The Gadsden-Etowah Emergency Management Agency will be participating in the annual training exercise at Anniston Army Depot scheduled for today. Trained responders at Anniston Army Depot will participate in the Anniston Community Exercise, as well as emergency management agencies and other emergency responders from areas that could be affected by a chemical emergency at the depot. The exercise is federally evaluated. It is expected

to begin sometime this morning with a scripted "incident" in or near the depot's chemical munitions storage igloos.
Source: http://www.gadsdentimes.com/article/20080305/NEWS/902607726/1017/NEWS&tc=yahoo

[Return to top]

## Information Technology

26. *March 4, Government Executive* – (National) **Contractor networks create security risk, Defense official says.** Information technology contractors pose a major security risk by not locking down their networks properly, according to the Defense Department's top IT official. The threat, along with risks associated with offshoring and acquisitions of American IT firms by foreign companies, are driving defense and intelligence agency initiatives to develop stricter information security standards. Contractors managed 1,353 systems on behalf of federal agencies in fiscal 2007, according to an Office of Management and Budget fiscal 2007 report on the implementation of the 2002 Federal Information Security Management Act, submitted to Congress in late February. Less than half of 25 major agencies said they "almost always" ensured that information systems used or operated by a contractor met the requirements of FISMA, OMB policy, and guidelines set by the National Institute of Science and Technology. Lack of oversight, combined with contractors' failure to secure their networks, put sensitive government information at risk, said the Defense Department's chief information officer and assistant secretary for networks and information integration, during a panel discussion Tuesday at the Information Processing Interagency Conference in Orlando, Florida. "We have a propensity to talk about the infrastructure, but we have to remember why we're here – to protect the data," he said. "There's 'exfiltration' of sensitive data from contractors, [which is] a big issue for national security." Smaller companies often present bigger risk because they are less accustomed to dealing with sensitive or classified information flowing through their networks than large systems integrators. Defense is working to educate large contractors and develop standards to ensure that proper security protocols are followed, and the department plans to do the same with network and IP providers.
Source: http://govexec.com/dailyfed/0308/030408j2.htm

27. *March 4, Dark Reading* – (National) **New method IDs phishing, malicious domains.** At a closed-door security summit hosted on Yahoo's Sunnyvale campus last week, a researcher demonstrated a new technique to more easily identify phishing and other malicious Websites. The vice president of security research for Websense, showed a tool Websense researchers have built that detects domains that were automatically registered by machines rather than humans -- a method increasingly being used by the bad guys, he says. "[Automation] is being used more and more," he said. Not much of the contents of the so-called ISOI conference typically seeps beyond the confines of this annual closed-door event: Its set up to accommodate the privacy and sensitivity of the content and information shared, as well as the attendees themselves. But some participants, including Websense, were willing to discuss some elements of the ISOI 4 summit.

Websense's new Lexi-Rep tool, which it uses internally in its Web security research, gives researchers -- and eventually, maybe domain registrars – a way to sniff out any suspicious domains that get automatically set up. "Increasingly, we're seeing more bots, keyloggers, and Trojans automatically connecting to domains," the company said. "And people are now automatically registering these domains without a human involved." The tool's algorithm determines whether a domain name was registered by man or machine, by assessing whether the domain and URL are "human consumable," or "whether someone would type that into a URL or search for that" site. It scores the likelihood of maliciousness of the domain and host name based on patterns in the name. The "bad" domain names then get blacklisted. Websense says the tool has an a 99.9 percent rate of accuracy, and that automatically generated domains to date represent over 1 percent of the nearly 1 million domains registered each day, but that share is rising.
Source: http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=147581

**Internet Alert Dashboard**

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US−CERT at soc@us−cert.gov or visit their Website: http://www.us−cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it−isac.org/.

[Return to top]

## Communications Sector

28. *March 5, Computerworld* – (National) **"Green" building windows can block cell signals. Indian Wells.** The senior vice president for strategic planning and technical architecture at Bank of America said the bank has discovered that energy-efficient windows in its newer buildings are blocking cellular phone signals. As a result, the bank faces paying premium access charges to wireless carriers to enhance indoor cellular signals, she said. She spoke yesterday at a panel discussion on wireless technology at the Mobile & Wireless Enterprise 2008, sponsored by Frost & Sullivan. With more than 15 buildings in Charlotte, where the bank is headquartered, the three buildings designated as green are the ones where the cellular signal problem has been detected, she said. Bank of America is making good progress on a multi-year deployment of voice-over-IP phones for nearly all of its 200,000 workers, but the cellular problem in the green buildings was not anticipated, she said. And the bank's staff is not yet sure how widespread the problem might be, though she says she suspects "we're at the tip of the iceberg." Several analysts and IT managers at the conference said they had never heard of the problem before, but Bank of America said the interference has been linked to a special doping material used in the manufacturing process. Metal is a well-known enemy of cellular signals, and companies in some large steel-framed buildings know that they need to enhance signals -- especially in the deep interiors of such buildings. But metal in window materials is a more recent development. In recent years, some green-building architects have relied on new windows that have a thin metallic coating that reduces energy usage by reflecting heat into the building in the winter and out in the

summer. On the flip side, some businesses have used the transparent metal linings in some window glass as a security advantage, blocking Wi-Fi piggybacking from outside – not to mention hackers sitting in a parking lot hoping to read data moving inside the building.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9066660&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

29. *March 4, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **Cyber security expert outlines the challenges in keeping wireless protected.** "There is no such thing as absolute security," a former White House cyber security adviser told an audience of mobile security businesspeople and analysts yesterday. But that does not mean the battle for a more secure mobile environment is all for naught. Growth in the wireless industry will be stymied if security is not adhered to, he said. Software and applications are the biggest vulnerability he said. With people using mobile devices for everything from booking flights to paying bills, application security cannot be overlooked, he said. Criminals will always be motivated to break applications to gain access to personal data. "Data is the gold, silver and diamonds in today's environment," he said. "I don't want to be in an environment where I've got vulnerability in one of my wireless devices," he said, adding that third parties that have access to personal data on mobile devices must also share equal responsibility for security. Wireless devices have become a critical part of infrastructure for government, public and commercial entities, he said. Through a year-long study, the government learned that "private industry owns about 85 percent of what we call critical infrastructure," he noted, adding that since then, "major private companies and government agencies have come together to share critical information to help improve security overall.
Source:
http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080304/FREE/887188996/1017/rss01

[Return to top]

## Commercial Facilities Sector

30. *March 4, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Police give all-clear at Vegas hotel.** Police have given the all-clear after authorities checked an unidentified white powder a man reported finding in a Las Vegas Strip hotel room. Authorities say a substance found Tuesday in a room at the Excalibur hotel-casino is not hazardous but have not disclosed what the substance is. The man was not sickened and hotel business was not interrupted after he reported returning to his room and finding the powder on his bed about 9 a.m. The investigation comes after officials found the toxin ricin at another Las Vegas motel last week. Authorities also searched the Excalibur on Friday in connection with that case, but no ricin was found. Hotel officials say the searches involved different rooms.
Source: http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/feedarticle/7357559

31. *March 4, ABC News* – (National) **March madness: Homeland Security issues warning on sports arenas.** As the spring sports season moves into high gear, the

Department of Homeland Security and the FBI issued an assessment, called "Potential Threats to Popular Sports and Entertainment Venues," that said arenas and stadiums are attractive "potential targets during events." The assessment repeatedly noted that the FBI and DHS have no "information on any credible or specific current terrorism plots to attack stadiums or arenas in the United States." The report, however, said "operational planning and surveillance against sporting facilities are often difficult to detect," and college and professional basketball playoffs, the stock car racing season, hockey playoffs and horse racing's Triple Crown are among the events that "regularly bring tens of thousands of fans...into large open-access facilities." Thirty-four incidents of suspicious activities involving arenas and stadiums were reported to the FBI last year, the report noted, however these "often lacked sufficient information to investigate or determine if a terrorism nexus existed." Although there is no information on specific or credible current terrorist plots, the report noted that detainee statements, captured material and domestic and overseas terrorist attacks were all part of the information used to prepare the assessment of these events as potential targets.
Source: http://www.abcnews.go.com/print?id=4387469

32. *March 4, Science Daily* – (National) **Bio-Sensor quickly detects anthrax, smallpox and other pathogens.** Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory have developed a powerful sensor that can detect airborne pathogens such as anthrax and smallpox in less than three minutes. The new device, called PANTHER (for PAthogen Notification for THreatening Environmental Releases), represents a "significant advance" over any other sensor, said a representative of Lincoln Lab's Biosensor and Molecular Technologies Group. Current sensors take at least 20 minutes to detect harmful bacteria or viruses in the air, but the PANTHER sensors can do detection and identification in less than three minutes. The technology has been licensed to Innovative Biosensors, Inc. (IBI) of Rockville, Maryland. In January, IBI began selling a product, BioFlash that uses the PANTHER technology. The device could be used in buildings, subways, and other public areas, and can currently detect 24 pathogens, including anthrax, plague, smallpox, tularemia, and E. coli.
Source: http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080304120746.htm

[Return to top]

## National Monuments & Icons Sector

33. *March 5, Washington Post* – (National) **Park Police chief is relieved of command.** The U.S. Park Police chief was removed from operational command of the troubled force yesterday while Department of the Interior officials assess his suitability to continue as chief, the National Park Service announced. He will continue to hold the title of chief but will be moved to Interior Department headquarters to help formulate a program of reforms for the force, a Park Service spokesman said. Command is being taken over by an acting assistant police chief, a former Park Police major who once commanded the special forces branch, the spokesman said.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/04/AR2008030401842.html

34. *March 5, Washington Post* – (National) **Government buildings to get added protection.** The police force in charge of protecting most federal buildings, recently criticized as understaffed and demoralized, will soon add officers. Congress last year directed the Federal Protective Service to have 1,200 full-time employees by July 31 and stipulated that 900 of them must be full-time law enforcement officers, inspectors, and agents. By adding staff, Congress hopes that the police force, a part of the Department of Homeland Security, will be better able to deter terrorist threats. Last month, the Government Accountability Office said understaffing and other problems affect the police force, exposing buildings in the Washington area and elsewhere "to a greater risk of crime or terrorist attack." The Homeland Security Secretary, in a February 28 letter to Congress, said the police force has about 750 of the required 900 law enforcement personnel on board and is working to hire the remaining 150 by the end of July, as directed last year by Congress. He cautioned that not all of the new hires may be trained in time, delaying compliance with the law until the end of September.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/04/AR2008030402807.html?nav=rss_politics/fedpage

35. *March 5, Spokesman-Review* – (Washington) **Mining proposal called wildlife threat.** Ten Environmental groups have initiated a new round of court challenges to the proposed Rock Creek Mine, arguing that extracting silver and copper from beneath the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Area would result in the deaths of protected grizzly bears and bull trout. The lawsuits accuse federal agencies of violating the Endangered Species Act by approving the mine. How the mine would affect grizzly bears and threatened bull trout and water quality in the Clark Fork River has been the subject of numerous lawsuits since the mine was first proposed in the 1980s. The Clark Fork River flows into Idaho's Lake Pend Oreille shortly after crossing the state line.
Source:
http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2004261311_rockcreek05m.html

[Return to top]

## Dams Sector

36. *March 5, Times Daily* – (Alabama) **Crews work to repair dam.** City workers Tuesday night began the seemingly endless task of pumping out enough water from Sloss Lake to allow crews to repair a large hole in the earthen dam. Russellville's mayor said a ten-inch pump was brought from Birmingham. He said the machine has the ability to pump 3,500 gallons of water per minute. Six more, larger pumps will be brought in today to aid in the operation. The mayor said workers with the city park and recreation department noticed the hole Tuesday. The manager of the Russellville water authority said when the hole was first discovered it was about the size of a basketball. The hole had grown to about six feet wide and six feet deep. There is a smaller hole about a hundred yards west of the larger hole that will also need repairing.
Source: http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20080305/NEWS/803050345/-1/COMMUNITIES

37. *March 4, Times Record News* – (Texas) **Council hears flood protection options.** The

Flood Protection Study that the city of Wichita Falls' Public Works Department unveiled during Tuesday's City Council meeting demonstrated that preventing another major flood will be neither easy nor cheap. Options floated included building a spillway and detention pond on Beaver Creek and constructing levee systems in the East Side and Tanglewood neighborhoods. The most expensive – but also most comprehensive – approach would be the construction of a spillway and detention pond on Beaver Creek. The possibility of doing nothing and leaving things the way they are is also under consideration.
Source: http://www.timesrecordnews.com/news/2008/mar/04/council-hears-flood-protection-options/

38. *March 4, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Dam work may be done in time for flood season.** The mayor of Enterprise, Utah, says a recent cool spell could not have come at a better time. The low temperatures have kept the snowpack from melting too fast and given workers a chance to complete a project on a dam that protects the town. The mayor sent a letter to residents last week asking them to prepare for possible floods. But he is much more optimistic now that the city can avoid spring flooding. Workers are trying to finish work on a hydraulic gate on the dam, and the mayor is hopeful it could be done by the weekend.
Source: http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=7964485&nav=menu554_2

39. *March 4, KMBC 9 Kansas City* – (Missouri) **Flood warning issued along Missouri River.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency is issuing a flood warning for Missouri residents, urging them to take steps now before the spring thaw. Residents along the Missouri River are most concerned about a repeat of the severe flooding from 1993, which was 15 years ago this spring. Parkville's mayor said she knows the ground is already saturated from recent storms. The town of Riverside has a levee to protect it, but Parkville does not.
Source: http://www.kmbc.com/news/15492967/detail.html

[Return to top]

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